

Read with Fresh Set of Eyes

Mark 1:1-8:

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." 3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight." 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. 8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

- 1) Compare the translation of this verse provided above (**taken from New King James Version**) with: (a) a paraphrased version of the Bible: the Living Bible, the New English Bible, J.B Philips *New Testament in Modern English*, etc. (If you can't find one of those, compare with the New International Version (which mixes the paraphrase with the literal).) and (b) the American Standard Version.
- 2) Share with the class your impression of the paraphrased version. Is it easier to read? Are there any significant differences between it and the New King James? Is there any value in reading a paraphrase alongside a literal version?